

October Calendar

Sunday 29th Sept: Congregational service at 10.30am:
Andy King: Feast of Trumpets
Celebration Care food donations for next Sunday
Monday 30th: Israeli dance at library, 2.15pm
Prayer meeting at Margaret's, 7pm
Wednesday 2nd Oct: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Andy & Karen's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 3rd: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
Saturday 5th: Men's prayer breakfast at Andy's, 7am

Sunday 6th: Congregational service & communion, 10.30am
Andy King: Day of Atonement
Monday 7th: Prayer meeting at Andy & Karen's, 7pm
Wednesday 9th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 10th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 13th: Congregational service at 10.30am:
Andy King: Feast of Tabernacles
Monday 14th: Israeli dance at library, 2.15pm
Prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7pm
Tuesday 15th: Ashgrove Nursing Home service, 2.30pm
Wednesday 16th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Andy & Karen's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 17th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am

Sunday 20th: Congregational service at 10.30am: Dr Annang
Monday 21st: Prayer meeting at Ann's, 7pm
Wednesday 23rd: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 24th: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
PFI prayer meeting at Ruth & Tony's, 7.15pm

Sunday 27th: Congregational service at 10.30am: Tom Hodge
Monday 28th: Israeli dance at library, 2.15pm
Prayer meeting at Andy & Karen's, 7pm
Wednesday 30th: Glen & Debbie's Bible study, 7.30pm
Andy & Karen's Bible study, 7.30pm
Thursday 31st: John's Bible study at Margaret's, 10.30am
Saturday 2nd Nov: Men's prayer breakfast at 7am



Welcome

...to Scartho Celebration Church!

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

October 2019

Newsletter & Calendar

Scartho Celebration Church

meeting at Scartho Community Library, St Giles Ave, Scartho,
Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire, DN33 2HB.

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We are truly living in troubled times. Our country is stuck in a political quagmire and a constitutional crisis that is dividing the nation in unprecedented ways. In thinking about what we should feature in this month's newsletter, and in view of the current situation in our country, my mind turned to what it is we as Christians need most at such a time as this. I believe we need to urgently seek the Lord in prayer. (I recommend reading the editorial from Prophecy Today, 'Reshaping the Nation' by Dr Clifford Hill concerning where we are politically and spiritually, and also an article from World Vision by Marilee Pierce Dunker, '8 ways to a more powerful prayer life in 2019', which focuses on Jesus' advice on how to pray. I will post a link to both of these articles on the church website.)

Our daily lives should be an ongoing conversation with our Lord and Saviour ordinarily, so how much more do we need to seek Him when we are in crisis? He alone is the source of all wisdom, peace and grace, and as we draw near to Him in prayer, He will lead and guide us.

What is the key to effective prayer? *An article from Gotquestions.com*

We all want our prayers to be "effective," so much so that when we focus on the "results" of our prayers, we lose sight of the incredible privilege we have in prayer. That people like us can speak to the Creator of the universe is itself an amazing thing. Even more astounding is the fact that He hears us and acts on our behalf! The first thing we need to understand about effective prayer is that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ had to suffer and die on the cross to even make it possible for us to approach the throne of grace to worship and pray ([Hebrews 10:19-25](#)).

Although the Bible offers a great deal of guidance on how we can deepen our communication with the Creator, effective prayer has more to do with the one doing the praying than it does with "how" we are to pray. Indeed, Scripture says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" ([James 5:16](#)), and that the "eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer" ([1 Peter 3:12](#); [Psalm 34:15](#)), and, again, "the prayer of the upright pleases Him" ([Proverbs 15:8](#)). Prayer saved the righteous Daniel from the lion's den ([Daniel 6:11](#)), and in the wilderness, God's chosen people benefitted from Moses' right standing with God ([Exodus 16-17](#)). The barren Hannah's steadfast and humble prayers resulted in the prophet Samuel ([1 Samuel 1:20](#)), and the apostle Paul's prayers even caused the earth to shake ([Acts 16:25-26](#)). Clearly, the passionate prayers of God's righteous children can accomplish much ([Numbers 11:2](#)).

We need to make sure that our prayers are in line with God's will. "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us" ([1 John 5:14-15](#)). Praying in accordance with God's will is essentially praying in accord with what He would want, and we can see God's revealed will throughout Scripture. And if we do not know what to pray for, Paul

reminds us that as God's children we can rely on the Holy Spirit to intercede for us, as "the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will" ([Romans 8:27](#)). And since the Spirit of God knows the mind of God, the Spirit's prayer is always in keeping with the will of the Father.

Additionally, prayer is something believers should do "continually" ([1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)). In [Luke 18:1](#), for example, we are told to pray with persistence and "not give up." Also, when we present our requests to God, we are to pray with faith ([James 1:5](#); [Mark 11:22-24](#)), with thanksgiving ([Philippians 4:6](#)), with a spirit of forgiveness toward others ([Mark 11:25](#)), in Christ's name ([John 14:13-14](#)), and as stated above, with a heart that is right with God ([James 5:16](#)). It's the strength of our faith, not the length of our prayers that pleases Him to whom we pray, so we don't need to impress God with our eloquence or intelligence. After all, God knows what our needs are even before we ask ([Matthew 6:8](#)).

Also, we should make sure we have no unconfessed sin in our hearts when we pray, as this would certainly be an impediment to effective prayer. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear" ([Isaiah 59:2](#); cf. [Psalm 66:18](#)). Fortunately, "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" ([1 John 1:9](#)).

Another barrier to effective communication with God is praying with selfish desires and wrong motives. "When you ask you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" ([James 4:3](#)). Rejecting God's call or ignoring His advice ([Proverbs 1:24-28](#)), worshipping idols ([Jeremiah 11:11-14](#)), or turning a deaf ear to the cry of the poor ([Proverbs 21:13](#)) serve as additional obstacles to an effective prayer life.

Effective prayer is a way to strengthen our relationship with our Father in heaven. When we study and obey His Word and seek to please Him, the same God who made the sun stand still upon the prayer of Joshua ([Joshua 10:12-13](#)) invites us to come boldly before the throne of grace and pray with confidence that He will extend His mercy and grace to help us in our time of need ([Hebrews 4:16](#)).

Praying for the nations: *As well as praying every month for Israel and for Britain, we always designate another nation on which to focus our international prayers. This month we're praying for the nation of China, with a population of more than 1.3 billion people. God is moving there, and the church is said to number about 75 million people, but there is much for us to pray into for this great nation. I will post a link on the website for our prayer material. Thank you.*